



ACCLAIM AWARD RUBRIC

Innovation Award

Think of this category as a bright idea award, recognizing the breakthrough, game-changing, lightbulb moment that turned creativity into meaningful impact. This category celebrates alumni (or collaborative teams that include at least one CNA alumnus) who have driven meaningful change through innovative ideas, products, services, or solutions. If your nominee has launched a novel initiative, transformed an industry practice, or created something that advances their profession or community in a creative way, this is the category for them.

(*Collaborative team must consist of at least one CNA Alumni Member)

Applicant Name: _____

Question 1: Describe the initiative, product, or process the nominee(s) has developed, emphasizing its innovative aspects and the advancements it has brought to its field or industry. Highlight the unique features and explain how these contributions have addressed existing challenges or created new opportunities.

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Proficient (3)	Basic (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Clarity & Description of Innovation	Provides a clear, detailed, and thorough description of the initiative, product, or process, with a focus on its innovative aspects.	Describes the initiative, product, or process clearly, but lacks some detail or specificity in explaining the innovation.	Provides a basic description but lacks clarity or detail in explaining the innovation.	Vague or minimal description of the initiative, product, or process, with little focus on innovation.
Originality & Uniqueness	The innovation is highly original, addressing a novel challenge or introducing a completely new concept.	The innovation shows originality and addresses a challenge or need in a unique way.	The innovation is somewhat original but not significantly different from existing solutions.	The innovation lacks originality or is not clearly distinguishable from other existing solutions.
Impact & Advancement in the Field	Demonstrates a clear, significant advancement in the field or industry, with measurable impact or clear evidence of progress.	Shows notable advancement in the field, with some measurable impact or clear potential for change.	Describes an innovation that makes a modest contribution, but its impact on the field is limited.	Limited evidence of impact or advancement in the field, with little to no measurable results.

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Proficient (3)	Basic (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Scalability & Sustainability	The innovation has clear potential for scalability and long-term sustainability, offering lasting value to the industry or field.	The innovation shows potential for scalability or sustainability, though it may require further development.	The innovation may have limited scalability or sustainability, with unclear long-term viability.	No clear potential for scalability or sustainability, or the innovation is unlikely to have long-term impact.

Total: ___/16

Question 2: Demonstrate the ongoing and positive effects of this innovation, including both the immediate and longer-term benefits. Highlight how this innovation has positively impacted its field or industry, as well as the broader community.

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Proficient (3)	Basic (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Clarity & Detail of Effects	Provides a clear, thorough explanation of both immediate and long-term effects, with specific examples and measurable outcomes.	Describes immediate and long-term effects clearly, but may lack some examples or depth.	Mentions the immediate and long-term effects, but lacks detail or clear examples.	Vague or minimal description of effects, with little to no supporting detail.
Impact on Profession/Industry	Demonstrates significant and lasting impact on the profession, including concrete examples of changes or improvements in practices, standards, or knowledge.	Shows notable influence on the profession, with clear examples of how it has contributed to advancements or improvements.	Impact on the profession is evident but may be limited in scope or depth.	Little to no demonstrated impact on the profession or industry.
Impact on Broader Community	Clearly outlines how the innovation has positively impacted the broader community, with measurable or observable changes.	Shows positive impact on the broader community, though the effects may not be fully quantified or sustained.	Impact on the community is mentioned, but lacks clarity or substantial evidence.	Little to no demonstrated impact on the broader community.
Sustainability & Long-Term Influence	Describes the lasting influence of the innovation, showing clear potential for continued positive effects in the future.	The innovation shows potential for long-term sustainability, though evidence of lasting influence may be limited.	Some long-term influence is suggested, but sustainability or continued impact is unclear.	No clear indication of long-term influence or sustainability of the innovation.

Total: ___/16

Question 3: Reflect on the unique strengths and qualities that have significantly contributed to the nominee's success. Explain how these traits, along with their ability to overcome challenges and barriers, make them deserving of this award.

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Proficient (3)	Basic (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Clarity & Depth of Strengths and Qualities	Clearly describes nominee's unique strengths and qualities with specific, compelling examples that illustrate their impact.	Describes nominee's strengths with some examples, but lacks depth in certain areas.	Mentions strengths but lacks specific examples or detailed explanation.	Vague or minimal description of nominee's qualities with little supporting detail.
Challenges & Barriers Overcome	Provides a detailed and inspiring account of significant challenges overcome, demonstrating resilience and perseverance.	Mentions challenges and barriers with some explanation of how they were overcome.	Acknowledges challenges but provides little detail on how they were addressed.	Little to no mention of challenges, or lacks explanation of overcoming them.
Connection Between Strengths & Success	Clearly and convincingly connects nominee's strengths to their success, demonstrating a direct link between qualities and achievements.	Shows a connection between strengths and success, but may lack clarity or strong examples.	Some connection is made, but it is weak or not well-supported.	Fails to make a clear connection between nominee's strengths and their success.
Justification for Award Worthiness	Provides a compelling, well-supported argument for why the nominee deserves this award based on their strengths and achievements.	Makes a strong case for the nominee, but may lack depth or specific examples.	Provides some reasoning, but the argument is weak or not fully developed.	Minimal justification for why the nominee is deserving of the award.

Total: __/16

Overall Application Scoring (1-4)

The applicant has well developed application with outstanding answers that provide plentiful details and examples, is well- thought out and well written.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

References (1-4)

Evidenced by strong documentation, letters of recommendation are superior and relevant.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Overall Impression (1-4)

Do you feel the applicant should win this award?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Total: __/12

Additional Comments:

Overall Total: __/60

Percentage: ____%